mirror - used by Lincoln

Drawer 29a

Furniture

71.2009.085.04527

Curios and Relics

Furniture

Mirror

Used by Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04527

Lincoln Souvenir Nets $175 at Kirby Auction

Milwaukee Sentinel - 5-6-1928

It took more than three-quarters of a century to collect all the furnishings of the Kirby house. Three hours were needed to dispose of them yesterday.

Fittings of 125 rooms in the hotel went under Auctioneer Charles Youngbeck's hammer. Furniture in each room was sold as a unit, prices varying from 25 cents to about $8 a room.

Interest centered chiefly around the sale of furniture which occupied room 41 in which President Lincoln stayed in 1859. By far the largest price paid for any single article was brought by a mirror which hung in the room during the president's visit. Tom Edelmann, 904 Bartlett avenue, a collector of antiques, paid $175 for it.

Mr. Edelmann also bought for $20 a small marble topped table in the same room. In addition to these articles he bought the furnishings of fourteen rooms at prices ranging from $1.50 to $7.00.

A black walnut wardrobe, the only other souvenir of Lincoln's visit, brought $10.50 from Mrs. Clara Bradd, 4216 Beloit road.

W. A. Behnke, proprietor of the Community hotel, 247 South Water street, took a chance and paid $40 for a pile of 100 unclaimed suitcases, sample cases and trunks that were found in an unoccupied room. The property had been accumulated through many years when guests left it behind. None of the luggage has been opened since it was left in the hotel. Bidding started at $2 for the lot and climbed to $40.

Room 3, containing five chairs, a bed, and a dresser went for 25 cents. An antique highboy, a three-legged table, two straight chairs, one rocker, a mirror and a bed brought $1.75.

The sale marked the passing of the old hotel to make room for a new office building.

Furniture Curio

January 25, 1929

Mrs. Lincoln Lesh
418 Charles Street
Muncie, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Lesh:

Some time you advised me that you had a bed which was made especially for Mr. Lincoln by a Mr. Pierce who ran a hotel at Savannah.

I believe you told me that you wished to dispose of this curio and if I remember correctly you said there were other pieces that went with the set. I have just run across a man who is looking for some Lincoln furniture and if you will give me the full description of the bedroom suite and the price at which you are holding it, I will send your correspondence on to him.

Very respectfully yours,

_____ Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

May 13, 1929

Mrs. E. Taft Leah
418 West Charles Street
Muncie, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Leah:

I am wondering if you were ever successful in disposing of the bedstead which you wrote to me about some time ago.

I have called the attention of two or three people to this curio, but I have not heard whether or not they made the purchase. Please let me know if it has been sold, so that I may cross it from my list of available relics.

Respectfully yours,

_____ Director,
LAW:VL Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

MRS. E. TAFT LESH
418 W. CHARLES ST.
MUNCIE, INDIANA

Feb. 12, 1929.

Mr. L. A. Warren,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

My dear Sir, - Sorry for this delay, caused by an unexpectedly prolonged absence from home - though I surely could not have selected a more appropriate date than Feb. 12, when the whole nation is honoring that great man, Abraham Lincoln, for answering your enquiries concerning my Abraham Lincoln set of furniture. The bedstead (one foot longer & quite a bit wider than ordinary bedsteads) was not only made for Abraham Lincoln

but the great man helped to make it, just as he wished it to be made. There is also a dresser, with revolving mirror, and a wash-stand, all of which were for years used by said Abraham Lincoln in his room at Havana, Ill.

Said furniture came into my possession after the death of "old man Taylor" (the former owner) at Havana, Ill.

My intention was to save these historic pieces of furniture for my two sons; but if your friend would like to purchase them I will sell them for $295.00 (two hundred ninety-five) provided I get the consent of our older son, who is a law student at Harvard.

With regret for this delay,

14 E. Taft Leech.

(Mrs. Lincoln Leech)

North Webster, Ind.
July 26/29 Box 494

My dear Sir, - At the time of receipt of your communication last Spring, asking if our Abraham Lincoln set of furniture was sold, Dr. Hill was still negotiating for it, and trying to find time from his numerous duties to come to see it. He was forced to keep post-poning, from time to time, any definite action. And then May 18 I was in a dreadful auto wreck - our Packard car & all its contents completely consumed & four of us rescued from beneath the blazing car - was confined to my bed in hospital & at home - for over six weeks, but am at last here at the lake cottage, and well on the way to recovery. In the meantime, Dr. Hill wrote me that he'd be at the Battle Creek San. during July, where a letter would reach him. It's only today that has been able to write him suggesting that he join you at Ft. Wayne & both come out here to see said furniture. If you

can drive out, you drive west thru Columbia City -
on west on that highway till you come past a
white church on north side of road; then watch for a
"Lake Corner Filling Station" on north side of road at
a cross roads; - turn north from the pave highway
on this gravel road 5 or 6 miles to North Webster
where anyone can direct you to "Camp Crosley"
(1 mile west) on Little Tippecanoe Lake, where we
are in the dark bungalow (going north) down
hill - next to the log cabin. Should you come
by train, we could meet you at Pierceton or at
~~Wawasee~~ Warsaw - 6 and 14 miles from here & have sug-
gested to Mr. Hill that we have plenty of room
here should you feel willing to be marooned
here long enough to rest up over-night.
My son has gone to Muncie with our car this week,
but expecting the rest of the family here by Sat.
Sorry my accident prevented me from writing
for many weeks, otherwise I should have
given you the requested information.

Truly, Eugene Taft Lesh

(Mrs. Lincoln Lesh
North Webster, Ind.)
Box 494

August 13, 1929

Mrs. Eugene Taft Lesh
North Webster, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Lesh:

I have just returned from my vacation and your letter of July 26 has been called to my attention.

I regret I was nothere at the time and possibly I would have been able to act upon your suggestion and bring Dr. Hill to see the Lincoln antiques.

Possibly it will be convenient for me to drive down some Saturday or Sunday and then communicate with Dr. Hill about them.

Respectfully yours,

_____Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

August 12, 1859

Mr. Benjamin Dart Esqr.
North Scituate, Rhode Island

My dear Sir, Friend:

I have just returned from my vacation and your letter of July 30 has been called to my attention.

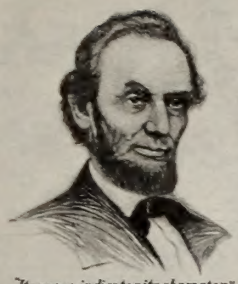
I regret I was absent at the time you possibly I would have been able to not upon your suggestion and bring Mr. Hill to see the Lincoln artifacts.

Possibly it will be convenient for you to drive down some Saturday or Sunday and then accompany Mr. Hill back with them.

Sincerely yours,

Lincoln.

Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.



"Its name indicates its character"

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
FORT WAYNE INDIANA

August 13, 1929

LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

LOUIS A. WARREN, DIRECTOR

RESEARCH BUREAU
INTERPRETS THE LIFE OF LINCOLN AS REVEALED IN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC RECORDS AND ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

PUBLICATION BUREAU
PREPARES HISTORICAL DATA FOR RELEASE IN BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, AND MAGAZINES.

INFORMATION BUREAU
COMPILES AND INDEXES ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION BEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF LINCOLNIANA.

EXHIBIT BUREAU
COLLECTS PORTRAITS OF LINCOLN, CURIOS, MEDALS, SOUVENIRS, ETC. FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY.

SPEAKERS BUREAU
PROVIDES SPEAKERS FOR MEETINGS OF CIVIC CLUBS, SCHOOL GROUPS, CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU
PROMOTES CONTESTS, ARRANGES PROGRAMS, AND STIMULATES AN INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN'S LIFE.

MEMORIAL BUREAU
MARKS SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE ASSOCIATED WITH LINCOLN, AND EMPHASIZES ANNIVERSARY OCCASIONS.

Mrs. Emogene Taft Lesh
North Webster, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Lesh:

I have just returned from my vacation and your letter of July 26 has been called to my attention.

I regret I was nothere at the time as possibly I would have been able to act upon your suggestion and bring Dr. Hill to see the Lincoln antiques.

Possibly it will be convenient for me to drive down some Saturday or Sunday and then communicate with Dr. Hill about them.

Respectfully yours,

Louis A Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

My dear Mr. Warren, - Had wondered why I had not heard from you or Mr. Hill - for not yet heard from Mr. Hill, but he may have tried to communicate with you, as I suggested. Am writing to say I shall be in Holland much this coming Sunday - week-end, rather, but here every week-end - at all times - after this one. Come anytime after this that best suits you, as I shall be very glad.

to have you see this Lincoln set. Wish you could have come last Sunday when my husband & sons, & our guests, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen S. Visher, of Ind. University were here to entertain you. However, there is always someone here week-ends, & we have plenty of room & shall be glad to have you anytime. This will be the first time I've been away since opening our cottage. The next week-end - perhaps a few others - I shall be home here & glad to have you come. In haste,

E. Taft Lesh

Mrs. Lincoln Lesh
North Webster, Ind.
"Little Tippecanoe Lake"
near "Camp Crosley"

CHARLES TAFT LESH
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

North Webster, Ind.
Sept. 29 57

My dear Sir, - Think I was still half-asleep when talking with you this A.M. I just took it for granted you were going to drive Lex. Hill out here Sat. afternoon. You come on West of Columbia City to the "Lake Corner Filling Station", then leave paved road & drive north to North Webster - we are near Camp Crosley on Little Tippecanoe Lake, about 1 mi. West of No. W- cottage with colored roof, down hill, next to Log Cabin. It will be very quiet here by Sat. as most of the cottagers are leaving Friday - I believe even Camp Crosley will close Friday - but my

two sons and I will be here over the week-end. We shall have an early dinner Sat. eve. and hope you will join us - plenty of room for over night if neither too cold nor too quiet for you. It is pleasant enough here now.

If you are expecting us to meet you anywhere just let us know, otherwise we shall be here at our cottage Sat. after noon expecting you, and anyone whom you wish to bring with you.

Very truly
E. Pratt Lesh

(Mrs. Lincoln Lesh)

WILLIAM W. MANN
LINCOLN LESH

TELEPHONE 1378

MANN & LESH

ROOMS 9, 10, 11, 12, PATTERSON BLK.
GENERAL LAW PRACTICE
MUNCIE, INDIANA

FIRST MORTGAGE LOANS
ABSTRACTS
COLLECTIONS
NOTARY IN OFFICE

418 W.Charles St.,
Oct.4,1929.

My dear Dr.Warren:-Returned to Muncie on Sunday,day after your visit to our lake cottage;have waited to write for two reasons:expected each day after seeing our sons off to school,to get back up there where I could consult my files and get your full address;the other was that Dr. Martin,our near neighbor there,told me that you and Dr.Hill would write to me at once.I most sharply regret my absence that day;but I let the "Marthe" side of my nature get the better of the "Mary" side.Thinking you and your party would remain for dinner with us,I had just gone up to that farm-house near us to get a couple of fried chickens and other good eatables which they had prepared there for me(as my colored maid had returned home the week before)and while one son accompanied me inside the house,the older son remained in the car so as to prevent any possible chance of your getting by us unseen,in case you came earlier than we were expecting you(your time,we afterwards remembered,was one hr.faster than ours)You perhaps remember seeing a Chrysler car in the barnlot of said farm as you turned into that private lane.Our son said that he watched alertly for awhile,and then became too deeply engrossed in a new magazine he was reading,to see you come in,but that he saw you drive out but too late to stop you.We hurried back then,only to be told by Dr.and Mrs. Martin that you came within ten min.after we left and that you had been gone less than that time when we returned!It seemed past belief that a thing could have happened just as that did--and I am known to have quite a Puritanical dependability!All I can say is that I'm sorry,but I can scarcely expect either you or Dr.Hill to excuse a thing of that kind.I have not heard from him since.

I shall be in Ft.Wayne Oct.22,23,& 24th.to attend the Convention of the Ind.Fed.of Clubs,as I'm on the Election Board,and therefore may be needed.Perhaps I may have time to drop in and talk to you for a few moments regarding the above matter.If I had not tried to provide a nice fried-

chicken dinner then it could not have happened that I would have been found absent just when needed there. With apologies and deep regret,

Emogene Taft Lesh

(Mrs. Lincoln Lesh)
418 W. Charles St.
Muncie, Ind.

October 10, 1929

Mrs. E. Taft Lesh
418 W. Charles St.
Muncie, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Lesh:

I regret very much the inconvenience we must have caused you by our visit to your home at a time when you were away, and I am sure that I voice the sentiment of Mr. Hill in this respect.

Mr. Hill is a very busy man indeed, and did not feel justified in waiting for an interview.

The door of your home was open and we took the liberty to step into the living room and make ourselves at home. Just before leaving we took a further liberty to look at the set you have, but I regret to say that Mr. Hill did not seem to be very much enthused about it.

If he has not written you before this, I expect he has given up the idea of making an offer for it.

As far as I know, I shall be in my office between October 22 and October 24 and if you are in Fort Wayne at that time I shall be very glad to see you.

Respectfully yours,

_____Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

LAW:VL

7

THE GREEN SHUTTERS
WHITEWATER, WIS.

Nov. 2, 31

Mr. Louis Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir,

The old mirror in my front room was used in the old Kerby House (a hotel) in Milwaukee when Lincoln stayed there in 1859- Room 41 - bought at the auction for $175.00. I have four newspaper clippings from the time of the auction May 7 1928.

I am not anxious to sell the mirror. It fits

perfectly on my mantle.
It is solid mahogany hand
carved - The price is $300.00

I have a paper covered
book 9½"x6" = 116 pages -
"The terrible tragedy at Washing
ton." Assassination of President
Lincoln. - Pub. by Barclay & Co
602 Arch St. Philadelphia
1865 - six pictures in black
F937 Theatre box, Booth on stage
Mrs Lincoln, Miss Laura Keene
John Booth, Escape of Booth.
Lincoln's Funeral Car. Good
condition aged a little yellow.
Light tan color cover, Picture
of Lincoln on cover in black.
price 6.00 (mailed)

If interested further you can write me.- May I have a list of your wants? I will be glad to look for things

Sincerely

L. Hogum

THE GREEN SHUTTERS
WHITEWATER, WIS.

Mirror

C 9

November 20, 1931

Mr. S. Hogum
The Green Shutters
Whitewater, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Hogum:

I regret the delay in replying to your letter but I have been out of the city a great deal in the past two weeks without an opportunity to take care of much of my correspondence.

I am making a note of the available items which you have and after the first of the year, it is possible that we may wish to acquire some of them if they are still in your possession. Please remember that we are always interested in Lincoln items and have built up here probably the largest collection of Lincoln literature which has been assembled.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:AAM
L.A.Warren

_____Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

THE HENRY E. HUNTINGTON
LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA